

Addressing inequalities

Following the release of the PHE report on disproportionate impact of COVID-19 in June 2020, particularly amongst Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities, London Directors of Public Health have responded with health and care partners in the following ways:

Local

Examples of work that local authorities have implemented following the Public Health England 7 recommendations include:

- Community engagement with culturally specific COVID-19 public health messaging through community champions
- Culturally sensitive occupational risk assessments
- Local conversations amongst public health staff on racism and health inequalities following the death of George Floyd in the US in May 2020
- Behavioural insights research on attitudes towards the COVID-19 vaccines, questions and fears among diverse communities across London
- Engaging with local communities on COVID-19 vaccine uptake in a culturally sensitive way through social media, webinars, community champions and health care professionals, and translated comms.

Sub regional (through integrated care systems)

- ADPH London, PHE London and GLA organised 'light touch' peer review of COVID-19 Local Outbreak Management Plan in July 2020 at STP/ICS level with London Directors of Public Health from local authorities to facilitate shared learning and continuous improvement. Discussions that were had during the peer reviews included community engagement and comms, particularly vulnerable groups
- In March 2021 PHE London, ADPH London and NHSE/I London will develop a London Health Equity Delivery Group to be a key vehicle in implementing a standard approach to health equity across London where possible, bring together ICS leaders and regional partners to share practice and align priorities in addressing inequalities. This Delivery Group will report to the Health Equity Group (see next slide)

Regional level (pan-London)

- In August 2020, the London Health Equity Group was formed to provide leadership and coordination to ensure health equity is central to all London level partnership transition and recovery strategies and the London Vision. The aim of the group is to:
 - Oversee the refresh of the Mayor's Health Inequalities implementation plan
 - Promote and support collaboration and action at neighbourhood, borough and ICS/STP level
 - Put in place enabling work identified by local partnerships as helpful to their joint work
 - Provide visible systems leadership and advocacy on health equity issues for Londoners

The Health Equity Group has a wide membership including health and care partners, voluntary and community sector, and faith groups

- In February 2021, ADPH London released a [position statement](#) in supporting Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic. This statement highlights racism as a public health issue, given the immediate and structural factors that have impacted ethnic minorities, with intentions to develop an action plan to mitigate any further widening of inequalities in 21/22, focusing on five themes. The themes will be aligned with partner organisations priorities for the London Health Equity Delivery Group, and development and delivery of actions will be reported to the London Health Equity Group.

Emerging priorities that are being addressed on inequalities during and beyond COVID-19 are:

- Improved access to vaccination data between NHS and local authorities to help inform understanding of vaccine access and hesitancy as the NHS vaccination programme continues to rollout with additional priority cohorts
- Recovery planning and understanding the wider impacts post second wave in responding to health inequalities

